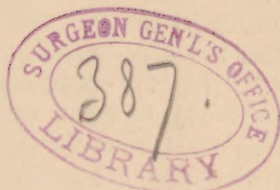


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AN ACCOUNT OF THE COLLECTIONS OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION.

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The first volume of the Collections of the American Statistical Association (Boston, pp. x, 596) was published in the year 1847, and consisted of three parts, which had appeared at different times; the first part in 1843, the second in 1845, and the last in 1847. Each part had a separate index, though paged continuously from one to another. They were written severally by the Reverend Joseph B. Felt, LL.D., the Recording Secretary of the Association, and they form a book of considerable interest and value. They give a large amount of original statistical matter, and on every page show signs of patient research and thorough work.

This statement is prefatory to a bibliographical analysis of the second volume of the Collections of the same Association, so far as it was printed, but never published.

The Massachusetts Historical Society has a copy of the first 136 pages of the second volume, which once belonged to the Recording Secretary of the Association. It consists of three papers,—and two pages of a fourth paper in order to fill out the form,—which were presented at different times to the Association; and, apparently, it was a file copy of the editor. The papers are paged consecutively

and stitched together, or "stabbed," without any cover. They comprise a "Memoir of the Life and Character of George Cheyne Shattuck, M.D., late President of the American Statistical Association. Read before the Association, April 12, 1854. By Edward Jarvis, M.D." (pp. 7); "Statistics of Comb-making in Leominster, 1852" (pp. 8-16), by Caleb Clesson Field, M.D.; and a "Memoir of American Discoveries, Colonization, Commerce and Fishery, from Newfoundland to Florida, both inclusive, down to 1630. By Joseph B. Felt, LL.D." (pp. 17-134), besides the first leaf (pp. 135, 136) of "The Financial Revulsion of 1857. An Address delivered before the American Statistical Association, February 10, 1858, by Hon. Samuel H. Walley."

This set of papers was given to the Historical Society by Dr. Felt, on October 20, 1858; and on the same day he gave another set to the Boston Athenæum, which contains forty more pages, comprising the following titles: Mr. Walley's Address, as given above (pp. 135-160); "Letters on the Money Crisis of 1857" (pp. 161-175), by Nathan Appleton; and a single page (176), on the Connection of Occupation with Longevity, by Edward Jarvis, M.D., President of the Statistical Association, which is complete in itself. The Athenæum copy, which has now been put in binding, once had a paper cover, of which the front part is still preserved, and on it is written "Collections of the American Statistical Association. [First Portion of Vol. II.]"

The Historical Society has another pamphlet, given by the Statistical Association, which exactly fits on the Athenæum set mentioned in the preceding paragraph. It is entitled: "The Increase of Human Life. Read before the American Statistical Association. By Edward Jarvis, M.D. President of the Association" (pp. 177-231). This copy, in connection with the one at the Athenæum, makes a continuous series of 231 pages of the second volume of the Collections. It is not probable that the same papers, taken together in this form, are to be found elsewhere.

The question now comes up, What became of those signatures that had been already printed; and, fortunately, there is an answer. It is known that they were kept in sheets for many years, much to the annoyance of the printers, who were desirous that they

should be folded and stitched, and with a title-page issued as the first Part of Volume II. In fact, at a meeting held on January 15, 1869, the Publishing Committee were authorized to do this, but owing to various circumstances it was never done. At that time Dr. Jarvis was intending to prepare another paper, which was to appear in the same Part, but he did not carry out the plan; and this delay caused, indirectly, the destruction of the sheets. At the time of the Great Fire in Boston, which broke out on the evening of November 9, 1872, they were stored in the printing office of T. R. Marvin & Son, when their establishment and all the contents were burned. Thus disappeared, probably, the last trace of the first Part of Volume II of the Collections of the American Statistical Association, with the exception of the two file copies, more or less complete, which were given by the Recording Secretary to the Massachusetts Historical Society and to the Boston Athenæum; and with the further exception of the first 16 pages,—containing the Memoir of Dr. Shattuck, and the Statistics of Comb-making in Leominster,—which were given to the Boston Public Library by Dr. Jarvis, on November 24, 1865, and of the last 54 pages on “The Increase of Human Life,” distributed by the author.

Some of these papers were also printed separately from the same forms, but with a new paging. Dr. Jarvis’s Memoir of Dr. Shattuck (pp. 1–7) and Mr. Walley’s Address (pp. 1–28) were of this number. Mr. Appleton’s Letters had been previously printed in a pamphlet, entitled “Remarks on Currency and Banking” (Boston, 1857), and in a communication to the “Boston Daily Advertiser,” March 4, 1858. Dr. Jarvis’s page on the “Connection of Occupation with Longevity,” was circulated as a leaflet; and his paper on the “Increase of Human Life” appeared originally in “The Atlantic Monthly” for October, November, and December, 1869. This article was soon afterward republished by the Statistical Association, in form and type to match the Collections, and the paging was adapted to its place in the new volume. Copies of this pamphlet, with a paper cover, were distributed by the author among his friends. There was also an edition of 1000 copies printed for the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, with the same type and from the same forms, though paged separately, and with a title-page and cover.

Some of these papers that make up Part I of the missing volume

are too valuable to be lost, and they should be reprinted and brought out anew, in connection with the other publications of the Association. Dr. Felt's "Memoir of American Discoveries, Colonization, Commerce, and Fishery," etc., is one of great research, and contains much not easily accessible elsewhere. The copious foot-notes on nearly every page abound with the authorities which he consulted in the preparation of the article, and they show the thoroughness of the work.